

REMARKS

Claims 2-14, and 20 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 21 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2-7, 10, 13, 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishida (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,432; hereinafter "Nishida"). Claims 8, 9, 11, 12 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amend claim 2 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 21 and cancel claim 21. Further, objected claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 are amended to be in independent form.

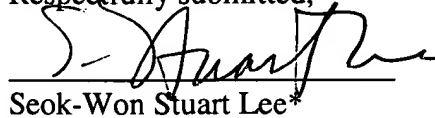
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/885,171

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Respectfully submitted,



Seok-Won Stuart Lee*

*Granted limited recognition under
37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b), as shown in a copy of
the same filed on April 5, 2004, at the
U.S.P.T.O.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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